

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Illinois Sees Minimal Job Growth; Eight Metro Areas Lose Jobs

### *Unemployment Rates Continue Downward Trend*

#### Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	September 2015	September 2014	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.3%	5.0%	-0.7
Carbondale-Marion	5.6%	6.1%	-0.5
Champaign-Urbana	4.4%	5.4%	-1.0
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	4.9%	6.2%	-1.3
Danville	6.4%	7.4%	-1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.0%	6.0%	-1.0
Decatur	6.4%	7.3%	-0.9
Elgin	4.9%	5.8%	-0.9
Kankakee	5.9%	6.9%	-1.0
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.5%	5.5%	-1.0
Peoria	5.7%	6.2%	-0.5
Rockford	6.2%	7.1%	-0.9
Springfield	4.7%	5.4%	-0.7
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.4%	6.4%	-1.0
Illinois Statewide	5.1%	6.2%	-1.1

*\* Data subject to revision.*

**CHICAGO** – September was the nineteenth month in a row that unemployment rates fell in every metro area while eight metro areas across the state saw job loss compared to a year ago, according to preliminary data released today by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Not seasonally adjusted data compares September 2015 with September 2014.

Illinois businesses lost jobs in eight metro areas including the Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), Carbondale-Marion (-2.0 percent, -1,100), Peoria (-0.8 percent, -1,500), and Decatur (-0.8 percent, -400). Illinois businesses added jobs in six metros, in which the largest increases were seen in: Champaign-Urbana (+1.7 percent, +1,900), Danville (+1.4 percent, +400), Elgin (+1.2 percent, +3,000), and Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division (+0.9 percent or +34,200). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metros were: Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities (11 of 14), Retail Trade (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

“Illinois unemployment data since January have shown very weak

employment growth compared to many other states,” IDES Director Jeff Mays said. “Sub-state data paint an even bleaker picture for areas outside of the Chicago area that have lost a net 10,000 jobs over the past year. Additionally, our internal unemployment insurance claims data indicate the likelihood of labor market softening in the coming months.”

The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.1 percent in September 2015 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Rates fell in 100 of Illinois’ 102 counties. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in September and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

#### Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – September 2015

Metropolitan Area	September 2015*	September 2014**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	95,800	95,100	700
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,300	55,400	-1,100
Champaign-Urbana MSA	110,500	108,600	1,900
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Div.	3,637,600	3,603,400	34,200
Danville MSA	29,700	29,300	400
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA	180,300	184,500	-4,200
Decatur MSA	51,000	51,400	-400
Elgin Metro Division	256,800	253,800	3,000
Kankakee MSA	45,100	45,400	-300
Lake County-Kenosha County IL-WI Metro Div.	402,800	403,800	-1,000
Peoria MSA	177,600	179,100	-1,500
Rockford MSA	151,900	152,100	-200
Springfield MSA	112,400	112,300	100
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	231,800	233,500	-1,700
Illinois Statewide	5,947,300	5,920,100	27,200

*\*Preliminary \*\*Revised*

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## Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates (percent) for Local Counties and Areas

	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2014	Over the Year Change
<b>Rockford MSA</b>			
Boone County	5.4%	6.2%	-0.8
Winnebago County	6.4%	7.3%	-0.9
<b>Cities</b>			
Belvidere City	6.2%	7.0%	-0.8
Freeport City	6.7%	8.0%	-1.3
Rockford City	7.7%	8.8%	-1.1
<b>Counties</b>			
Bureau County	5.4%	6.6%	-1.2
Carroll County	4.5%	5.1%	-0.6
DeKalb County	4.8%	5.7%	-0.9
Henry County	5.3%	6.3%	-1.0
JoDaviess County	4.5%	5.1%	-0.6
Kane County	4.9%	5.9%	-1.0
Lee County	4.5%	5.4%	-0.9
McHenry County	4.2%	5.3%	-1.1
Ogle County	5.2%	6.1%	-0.9
Stephenson County	5.8%	6.6%	-0.8
Whiteside County	5.5%	6.3%	-0.8

### Stephenson County

The September 2015 not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.8 percent compared to 6.6 percent in September 2014. The last time the September rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 4.8 percent. For the month of September 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,250.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-325) compared to a year ago. Professional-Business Services (+100) and Government (+50) added the most jobs from September 2014. Manufacturing (-200), Financial Activities (-125), and Leisure-Hospitality (-100) sectors recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago.

### **Note:**

- Monthly 2014 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2015, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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## Rockford MSA Highlights

### **Help Wanted**

Area employers advertised for 6,900 positions in September and approximately 85 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board. It is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as construction, typically do not advertise job openings.

### Rockford MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.2 percent in September 2015 from 7.1 percent in September 2014. The last time the September rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.7 percent. For the month of September, the estimated number of people unemployed in the labor force was 10,600.

Total nonfarm employment decreased (-200) compared to September 2014. Retail Trade (+400), Leisure-Hospitality (+200), and Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+100) reported payroll gains. Professional-Business Services (-600) and Construction (-300) industries recorded declines compared to one year ago.

### Ogle County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.2 percent in September 2015 from 6.1 percent in September 2014. The last time the September rate was equal to or lower was in 2007 when it was 5.0 percent. For the month of September 2015, the number of people unemployed in the labor force was 1,350.

Total nonfarm employment fell (-225) compared to a year ago. The Manufacturing (+75) sector added the most jobs over the year. Construction (-100), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-75), Educational-Health Services (-50), and Professional-Business Services (-50) sectors recorded the largest employment declines compared to one year ago.